AN

ESSAY,

SHEWING,

That there is no Probability of there being so much *French* INTEREST, as it's certain there's *English* INFLUENCE in our present Parliament of *SCOTLAND*.

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An Eſſay, ſhewing, that there's no Probability of there being ſo much French Intereſt, *as it's certain there's* Engliſh Influence *in our preſent Parliament of* Scotland.

THO' Private Men living obſcurely, ought not raſhly to ſnarle at the Proceedings of Peers and Princes? Since they may have often ſecret, tho juſt Reaſons and Motives for the Meaſures they take, which Men living retiredly in a Corner, can't be acquainted with, nor conſequently, make a juſt Sentiment of the Deſign; yea, tho the beſt Actions and Intentions of well meaning Men, may be reproached and miſrepreſented by the Malice or Subtilty of deſigning Stateſmen: Yet it's moſt certain, that there are ſome Things ſo obviouſly neceſſary for the Welfare of the Country, that every Subject, of an ordinary Capacity, may have Knowledge of 'em, as well as they have Intereſt in 'em.

Such are theſe, that the Liberty of our Ancient Kingdom, and its Independency on our Rich and Proud inſulting Neighbours, ought to be couragiouſly aſſerted and defended; eſpecially, ſince it is now ſo impudently invaded, not only by the hired Hands of mercenary Scriblers, in their ignorant, lying, and ſcurrilous Pamphlets, but alſo by the publick and officious Intermeddling of Foreign Powers,

and Parliaments in our Affairs: Yea, ſome of our own Country-men, like unnatural Renegado's, have been brib'd to ſpit in their Mother's Face, and to record their Villainy to their perpetual Shame.

That all poſſible Ways ſhou'd be taken to advance our Trade, to correct Abuſes of the Publick Revenues, (which by the Suggeſtions of Malice and Ignorance to the Sovereign have too often been given to bribe our Judgements againſt our ſelves) to rectify our Conſtitution, and ſecure our Religion, Liberties, and Properties. For Men to wrong themſelves, that they may not be hurt, is to damn themſelves for fear of Damnation. Thoſe Noble Patriots do act Glorioufly, who have reſolved the ſecuring of thoſe Points in the firſt place; which, as they are always moſt neceſſary, ſo are they, at this preſent Juncture, moſt highly ſeaſonable.

Neither need we anticipat our own Miſery, with perplexing Fears, that may never come to paſs. Our Queen, (bleſs'd be GOD) is yet alive, and GOD may in his Mercy provide us a *Proteſtant* Succeſſor, before we need him. How many Opportunities of ſecuring our Honour and Intereſt, in encouraging and improving our Trade, have been neglected, betrayed, and defeated: God grant this Occaſion may not have the like Fate. If it do, they, who either out of Simplicity, or from too narrow and ſelf-deſigning Principles, contribute ignorantly, or induſtriouſly to let it ſlip, will certainly ſuffer more in the common Diſgrace, Slavery and Poverty of the Nation, than any preſent Gain they can make

make by the Bargain, can compenſat. I ſhall not decry even Men's regarding their privat Intereſt: But it is no Man's particular Intereſt to take a ſmall Gift, to ſuffer a great Sum to be ſtolen out of his Country; ſince, in a very ſhort Space, he muſt needs poſſibly loſe ten times more in the certain Courſe of Affairs, by the Damnage he ſuffer'd his Country to ſuſtain, than he got by the Gift he took to connive at the Theft: For I hope, the publick Intereſt is only a Complex of this, that, and other Individual's particular Intereſts, which are all Members of the political Body. Not to ſpeak of the Judicial Puniſhments that do moſt unavoidably follow ſuch Ways, if we do not disbelieve a Supream Power; who by inviſible Springs, does guide the Helm of Affairs, and the Contempt and Reproach, it brings on a Man, beſides the Foundation of Diſquiet, it lays in his own Breaſt. Now, methinks, few Men wou'd receive a Penny, on condition, to part with ten, ſome Months afterwards: He acts certainly as ridiculouſly and prejudicially to himſelf; who is induced by the Proſpect of any preſent Conſideration, to ſuffer the Honour or Intereſt of his Country to be impaired, ſince the Effects of it will certainly, in proceſs of Time, prove alſo to his own greater Diſadvantage, than the Reward his deluded Imagination did expect or receive, cou'd yield him Satisfaction: But thus do Men too often worſhip Idols of anothers making, or adore the Creature of their own Fancy.

That

That there are no Members in Parliament, that wish well to some in *France*, I shall not adventure to assert, but I think I may safely say, That Noblemen and Gentlemen of the *Scots* Nation, do not so frequently and avowedly run to *France* as they do to *England*, and therefore have not so often an opportunity to be swayed by *French* Interest as by *English* Influence.

It is likewise certain, that there is not so open a Correspondence by Letters betwixt *Scotland* and *France*, as betwixt *Scotland* and *England*, so that there may be more *English* than *French* Interest among us that way; and since there is so much Talk of Plots, and such Resolves by the *English*, had there been any Intercourse 'twixt any person worth Naming, in *Scotland* and *France*, it had been boldly and loudly enough Proclaimed 'ere now. The *French* have neither meddled with our Acts of Parliament as the *English* have done, nor sent to the Courts of *Europe* to stiffle our Trade, but on the contrary, have supply'd our Ships in their Islands with Fresh-water, even when the *English* contrary to all Rules of Humanity refused it. The *French* can't pretend to Counsel and Advise Her Majesty in the disposal of Posts and Preferments in the Kingdom of *Scotland*, as the *English* may. The *French* have never disclaim'd the Sovereignty and Independency of our Nation, nor encouraged and bribed inconsiderable Pamphleteers of mean Intellectuals and base Morals, to rail at our Nation; yea, and revile some of our Considerable Peers, as the *English* have enticed

ced ſome Infamous Wretches of our own Country to do.

In a word, the *French* have neither Affronted, Injured, nor falſly Reproached our Nation as the *Engliſh* have done, but on the contrary, have alway's prov'd more Courteous Friends, Kind Confederats, and more Mannerly Neighbours to us than the *Engliſh*. I am far from meaning by all this, that I cou'd wiſh Peace with *France* and War with *England*, (tho we never thriv'd ſo well as when we were at Peace with *France*,) for I know very well, that the *Engliſh* are much better Maſters than the *French*, neither do the *Engliſh* Enſlave their Subjects as the *French* do. I cou'd be well ſatisfy'd to have the Friendſhip of both in due time, but God preſerve us from the Maſterſhip of either. I believe it were the *Engliſh* Intereſt as well as ours, that *Scotland* and *England* were firmly and perpetually United in all reaſonable Inſtances; for if we continue to be thus inſulted, Reproached, Enſlaved and oppreſſed; Rage, Poverty and Deſpair may force us to Extreams, which may poſſibly more oblige both our Enemies; than prove profitable or ſafe to either of the Parties. Nature has united us in the ſame Continent, Providence has given us the ſame Language, the ſame Proteſtant Faith, and the ſame Sovereign at this preſent time, ſo that we ſeem by many ways and Circumſtances, to be twiſted in the ſame common Intereſt.

I hope by this time, in all probability, (which can only guide our Sentiments where we want certain-

tainty,) it will by this little Eſſay moſt evidently appear, that there's more *Engliſh* Influence than *French* Intereſt in this preſent Parliament: And whatever deſigning Amuſements may be made to the contrary, they may be look't upon as the Cob-web Sophiſtry of hired Heads, or the waking Dreams of a Brib'd Brain. And tho I abhor railing even againſt Peaſants, and much more at Senators and Sovereigns, yet I think, he that Taxes the ill deſigns of thoſe that are even ſtated in the higheſt Capacity, when interfeiring with the welfare of the Kingdom, ought to be look't upon as an univerſal Friend, and a true Promoter of the publick Intereſt: And the more ſevere he be in his Cenſure, providing it be true and well grounded, he is the more kind in his undertaking, and like to be the more ſerviceable in the performance.

FINIS.